

Message Text

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ORIGIN ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 DHA-02 L-03 VO-03 SCA-01 INSE-00

IO-11 /030 R

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L/M - MR. MALMBORG

D/HA:RMOTT

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P 081534Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: LAO REFUGEE PROGRAM: ONWARD MOVEMENT OF
REFUGEES TO U.S.

REF: BANGKOK 8179

DEPT NOTES THAT LAO ARRIVALS ONCE MORE ON THE INCREASE.
WE REMAIN CONCERNED, HOWEVER, BY PROJECTED RATE OF
MOVEMENT. WHILE RECOGNIZING THAT NUMBERS OF INDIVIDUAL
CASES MAY REQUIRE SPECIAL HANDLING, WE DO NOT REALLY
UNDERSTAND WHY SIX WEEKS ARE REQUIRED TO MOVE BULK OF
800 LAO PRESENTLY CLEARED FOR TRAVEL. NUMBERS OF THESE
HAVE ALREADY BEEN WAITING FOR SOME TIME AND WE ARE
RECEIVING BOTH VOLAG AND CONGRESSIONAL PRESSURES ABOUT
DELAYS.

WE ARE ENTIRELY SYMPATHETIC TO THE DIFFICULT CONDITIONS
UNDER WHICH EMBASSY IS OPERATING BUT, IN THE EVENT A
LARGER EXPANDED PROGRAM IS APPROVED, THE RATE OF 150 PER
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WEEK OR-EVEN SUBSTANTIALLY ABOVE THAT WOULD REMAIN ENTIRELY

INADEQUATE TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE PROGRAM WITHIN THE TIME FRAME WHICH WE WOULD FACE.

AS INDICATED IN LOWMAN/ROSENBLATT TELECONS, DEPT BELIEVES

IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO COMPLETE THE EXPANDED PAROLE PROGRAM IN FY 1977 IF SUBSTANTIAL ACTIONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN PRIOR TO JUNE 30, 1976, SUPPORTING THE OBLIGATIONS OF THESE FUNDS. EMBASSY SHOULD UNDERSTAND, HOWEVER, THAT THIS APPROACH CAN BE SUPPORTED ONLY IF ENTIRE OPERATION CAN BE SEEN AS A WHOLE AND MOVEMENTS CANNOT BE ALLOWED TO DRAG OUT LATE INTO CY 1976. THUS, WE BELIEVE IT A MATTER OF OPERATIONAL URGENCY TO PLAN ON COMPLETION OF THE LARGER PROGRAM, INCLUDING MOVEMENT TO THE U.S. OF ALL ELIGIBLE REFUGEES, NO LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 30, 1976.

WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S THOUGHTS AS TO WHETHER SUCH A RATE OF MOVEMENT IS FEASIBLE WITHIN THE CONDITIONS PRESENTLY EXISTING, HOW CURRENT RATE CAN BE STEPPED UP, AND WHAT, IF ANY FURTHER STEPS EMBASSY BELIEVES NECESSARY AND DESIRABLE TO ACHIEVE THIS GOAL. SISCO

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